



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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United States Agency for International Development Employee Pleads Guilty to Theft of Government Property

Washington, D.C. - Porshia J. Everett, 38, a Deputy Controller with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Lima, Peru, pled guilty today to one count of Theft of Government Property before the Honorable Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, announced Acting U.S. Attorney Channing D. Phillips. Everett, who faces a statutory maximum sentence of ten years of imprisonment, is scheduled for sentencing before Judge Kollar-Kotelly on February 26, 2010. As part of the plea agreement, Everett has agreed to resign from USAID.

According to evidence presented at the plea hearing, as a Deputy Controller of USAID, Everett was responsible for, among other things, reviewing and certifying travel vouchers submitted by USAID employees who traveled on USAID official business. In November 2008, Everett became ill and had emergency surgery. After she was released from the hospital, Everett stayed with her relatives in the Washington, D.C. area to recuperate. Because she was staying with relatives, she was not entitled to reimbursement for lodging expenses.

Beginning on or around November 2008 and continuing through on or around March 2009, Everett submitted three different fraudulent travel vouchers to USAID which stated falsely that she had incurred a total of \$16,406.50 in lodging expenses. Each of the three travel vouchers was submitted with an attached phony lodging receipt. A subsequent review of Everett's USAID computer revealed that Everett downloaded a receipt template from the internet. She then modified the receipt template and saved it in an Excel spreadsheet on her USAID computer's "C" drive. Everett then e-mailed the Excel spreadsheet that contained the receipt template to her personal e-mail account, and used the template to create the phony lodging receipts that she submitted with her travel vouchers to USAID.

As a result of her unlawful conduct, the USAID sustained losses of approximately \$16,406.50. On March 3, 2009, when Special Agents of the USAID's Office of Inspector General confronted Everett concerning the phony lodging receipts, she voluntarily admitted that

she had falsified the lodging receipts that she attached to the travel vouchers submitted to USAID for reimbursement. Everett has agreed to make full restitution to the USAID.

In announcing the guilty plea, Acting U.S. Attorney Phillips praised the outstanding efforts of Special Agents with the Office of Inspector General for USAID. He also commended the efforts of Legal Assistant Jamasee Lucas. Finally, he praised the work of Assistant U.S. Attorney Lionel Andre who investigated and negotiated the plea in the case.

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